GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1587
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
RUBBER PLANTATIONS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether excess rain and shortage of labour have adversely affected the production of natural rubber in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consumption of rubber has been increasing in the current year as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to control the prices of rubber in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Tapping days were lost because of the incapacitation of tappers due to the disease and prolonged rains. The yield of rubber plantations was affected by high incidence of abnormal leaf fall, especially, in the northern districts of Kerala. The production of natural rubber during April-October 2007 is estimated to be 400,070 tonnes as compared to 465,180 tonnes during the same period in the previous year, a decline to the extent of 14 per cent.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) The consumption of natural rubber during April-October 2007 is estimated to be 496,915 tonnes as compared to 473,285 tonnes during the same period in the previous year, registering a growth of five per cent.

(e) : The lifting of quantitative restrictions (QRs) and introduction of other liberalisation measures led to integration of the domestic Natural Rubber (NR) sector into the world market. The domestic NR prices more or less follow the trends in the international market. The reduction in NR production during the current year did not lead to deficit in the market because of comfortable stock position.